Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at lines 22 – 29 of page 6 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

Preferably, administration of a protective oligodeoxyribonucleotide ~~according to the invention~~ according to the invention is able to protect endothelial cells and epithelial cells from the effects of the immunosuppressant. The immunosuppressant preferably activates epithelial cells and endothelial cells and induces apoptosis therein. Thus, in a preferred embodiment, the protecting ~~olideoxynucleotide~~ oligodeoxyribonucleotide protects epithelial and/or endothelial cells from apoptosis and/or activation by the immunosuppressant. The immunosuppressant is preferably fludarabine. The portective oligodeoxyribonucleotide is preferably defibrotide.

Please replace the paragraph at lines 17 – 20 of page 8 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

The invention also relates to a pharmaceutical composition containing a therapeutically effective dose of an immunosuppressant and of a protective oligodeoxyribonucleotide. The immunosuppressant is preferably fludarabine. The protective oligodeoxyribonucleotide is preferably defibrotide.

Please replace the paragraph bridging line 21 of page 8 through line 3 of page 9 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

Brief description of the Figures
Fig 1: Fludarabine induces programmed cell death in human ~~micorvascular~~ microvascular endothelial cells (HMEC). HMEC were either left untreated or incubated with 2-fluoro-9-β-D-arabinofuranosyladenine (hereinafter referred to as F-Ara, the metabolized form of fludarabine) in descending concentrations for 48 hours and subjected to flow cytometric analysis (A) or microscopic DAPI stain analysis (B). A: Contour plots of the side scatter (SSC) image (x-axis) of propidium iodide (PI)-negative cells plotted against the forward scatter image (y-axis) as a parameter for cellular granularity versus cell size. B: Quantitative fluorescence microscopy analysis of DAPI-stained endothelial cells. Results are given in % apoptotic HMEC (% apoptotic cells) ± standard deviation (out of n = 10 microscopic fields with an average of 70 cells per field). Representatives of at least five independent experiments are shown. *: $p<0.001$ of untreated control versus F-Ara (10 µg/mL) treated cells.